



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 2020

The Marshall Christian

Volume XII NO XII

Four Walls...

ATTENTION

ALL Elders

and Deacons:

One person is needed for each Drive Up service for the month of December. Please call the office to let us know if you are interested in serving at the 8:00 or the 10:30 service.



Let's get right to the point of this article. A few weeks ago, Worship Committee, as well as our Church Board, were hopeful that we could resume services inside beginning in December. In fact, in our November Board meeting it was discussed, and determined, that we would not only bring services inside (and offer outside) , but that we would move to only one service on a Sunday. My how things have changed!

A few day before this newsletter was scheduled to go out, we were informed that some local churches were once again shutting their doors to ANY type of services, and were going strictly online. It is understandable. Covid numbers are higher NOW in our community then they were when we shut everything down in March. In fact, they are higher than they have been this entire time of the pandemic! So why were we trying to move services back into the sanctuary, when things seem to be getting "worse before they get better"? Comfort. Tradition. Expectancy. But is that

really a reason to do so? Not being inside of our own Church has been difficult. But, we have made it work. I think about how things may not always be how we want them, but that the grace of God may take us somewhere different.

Joseph and Mary traveled many miles with her pregnant, to satisfy an imperial command that all individuals return to their ancestral towns "that all the world should be taxed." When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. So they did what they had to do. They lodged in a cave meant for animals, and when Jesus was born to them, Mary laid him in a manger, on a bed of straw, to keep him off of the cold floor. And that night...love was born. Eternal love. A child was delivered, and the prophecy of his miracle birth came true.

When Mary and Joseph set out on their journey, their mindset had to be to travel swiftly, make it to Bethlehem, and find a room to rest. Never would they imagine they would end up in a stable...but they did. But that didn't stop God's

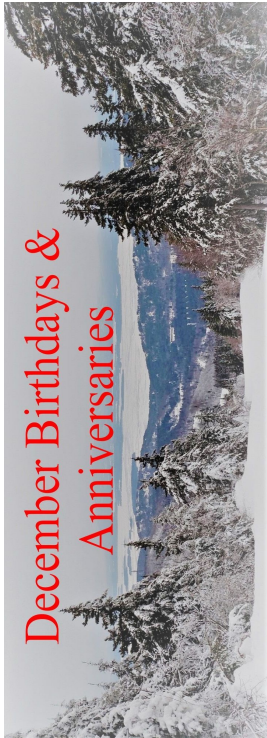
plan...the birth of His son. If a king can be born in a manger, with no walls to surround him, then we can surely worship Him and His love for us without walls too.

Normally at this time of year the Sanctuary is adorned with a Chrismon tree covered with handmade ornaments, an Advent wreath, beautiful garland and wreaths throughout, and the most amazing Christmas music being played by Donna and Kay. I had a day of meltdown, tears, sadness, when I realized that this year those things...I would have to do without. I know many of you feel the same way.

One day, we will go back in the Church. We will be able to sing together, laugh, visit, and worship together, and adorn our Church, once again, for the Christmas Season. Until then, we must be patient and understanding. And always remember, that four walls do not hold the love God has for us, or that we have for Him...our hearts do.

Learning and Leaning,

Hope



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1- Paxton Joliff
Molly Krog
2- Jeff Wise
3- John Flethcer
Cyndi McCord
6- Stacey Smith
10- Chris Layton
12- Gwen Clemens
Bert Shannon
14- Brienne Asbury
Heidi Joliff
15- Nicki Colet
Sherry Shannon
17- Bryant Eads
18- Karolyn Caldwell
19- Madison Gaba

20- Jill Buck
Meg Kissner
21- Emily Kueker
22- Leslie Coslet
Linda Dryer
24- Carolyn Buck
Kevin Dryer
25- Tyler Merchant
26- Ann Pannell
27- Virginia Bryant
Jeff Dryer
Jo Wilhite
Wayne Wise
28- Kevin Ash
Vic Hessel
Tyler Smith

31- Sarah Dowell
Abby Gass
Randall Wilson

Anniversaries

1- Justin & Abby Schroeder
10- Matthew & Jessica Green
12- Loyd & Ann Pannell
17- Paul & Michelle Scarff
23- Todd & Christy Marshall
26- Ed & Ginger Reis
27- Paul & Linda Crews
David & Marlene VanHorn
29- Norvelle & Colleen Brown
31-Josh & Natalie Hoffelmeyer



The December Board Meeting will be December 9 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The meeting ID is 825 2587 2176. The passcode is 618593. Please contact the Church office if you have any questions on how to attend.

Nov. 29-Rev. Randal DeMasters
Dec. 6-Rev. Randal DeMasters
Dec. 13- Willie Harlow
Dec. 20- Willie Harlow
Nov. 29- TBA



Would you like to help with our annual Chili/Soup Supper and Silent/Live Auction on Friday, Dec 4? Please let Ginger know at 660-620-2480 if you can do any of the following:

- **Make brownies** - Cut into 3"x3" squares if thick or 3" x 4" squares if thin, individually wrap, and leave on the table inside the east doors on Dec 3 or 4. Please no nuts. (It would help our planning if we knew how many to expect.)
- **Make chili and sandwiches** - Friday, Dec 4 morning
- **Package meals as orders are taken** - Friday, Dec 4 evening from 3:30 - 7:30 (Any portion of this time would be great!)
- **Take orders, collect payment, deliver meals to cars** - It would be great if some of our younger members would step forward to take on these tasks as they involve being outside! Friday, Dec 4 3:30-7:30 (Any portion of this time would be great!)
- **Help with the Zoom Live Auction** - late afternoon/early evening of Sunday, Dec. 6



Tid Bits...



To everyone who contributed to our delivered Thanksgiving Dinner...thank you! We were blessed to serve 10 households. From homemade rolls, to bringing in a little "dough", these people graciously contributed, in an effort to let others know...we are here, and we care. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank the following people who helped make this happen:

Alice Barnes

Evelyn Hill

Roberta Reed

Donna Smith

Ron & Carol Schupp

Wayne & Vickie Wise

John & Ginger McGraw

Ken & Virginia Bryant

Blaine & Tiffany Thornton

Greg & Shirley Schultz

Bill & Nancy Jackson

Lloyd & Rosie Bentley

Buddy & Karla Hannaford

May you all find a little something extra in your stocking at Christmas!

Bells Will Be Ringing....

That is, if we volunteer! Our Church is signed up to ring the Salvation Army Bell on December 12, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Please contact the Church office if you are willing to volunteer.



Ready to ZOOM in on the fun?



Here is the Zoom log in information you will need to join the LIVE Auction on December 6, with Willie Harlow as our guest emcee. Simply go to zoom.us, and click "join meeting". Next, you will be prompted to put in the Meeting ID. Our ID is 875 3688 8595. Click "next". You will be asked for the passcode. Enter the code 001738, and you are ready to go! Yes, it's that simple! So get your bidding numbers ready, your snacks and drinks prepared, and join us as we raise money to support our local organizations. Happy bidding everyone!



Our week to serve Meals on Wheels will be December 7-11. Please contact Ken Bryant, or the Church office, if you are able to help.



The Grand River Valley Choir and Orchestra Board of Directors voted to cancel the Virtual Recital previously scheduled for December 12 because of concerns for everyone's health and safety. It was decided instead to provide an encore presentation on YouTube of its 2019 10th Season Celebration Winter Concert as our gift to the community.

This program will be available starting December 12 for four-to-six weeks. A link to this YouTube performance will be on our [GRVCO.com](https://www.grvco.com) website as well as our Facebook page. Come join us then and enjoy! Until we can meet again in person, stay safe and healthy.

Linda Arnold is conductor of the GRV Choir. Buddy Hannaford is the GRV Orchestra conductor.

Beginning January 2021, we will no longer be

bulk mailing our newsletter. It will be available online or at Church. If you would like to continue having a hard copy mailed to you, or emailed, please contact the office.



First Christian Church
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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**Visit our
Church Website!**

Stop by our website at
www.fccmarshallmo.org
to check out upcoming
events and activities, serving
schedules, bulletins and
newsletters, and information
about our groups, ministries,
staff, etc.

We're on the Web!
fccmarshallmo.org

Church Staff

Custodians– Ron & Carol Schupp

Chris Layton

Financial Secretary– Ken Bryant

Office Admin.– Hope Richards

Music Director– Hope Richards

Youth Director– Kris Milliron

Pianists– Donna Smith, Kay Wise,

Judy Morris

